

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polymer, wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is at least 105000 g/mol (Mn), wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers, and wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.
2. (Original) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is at least 150000 g/mol (Mn).
3. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 1000000 g/mol (Mn).
4. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 500000 g/mol (Mn).
5. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 350000 g/mol (Mn).
6. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 250000 g/mol (Mn).
7. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is less than

2000000 g/mol (Mn).

8. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the polydispersity of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 1 to 5.

9. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the polydispersity of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 1 to 2.5.

Claims 10-13 (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents.

15. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said flavoring agents comprises natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids or other substances capable of affecting the taste profile.

16. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

17. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

18. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water soluble ingredients.

19. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 18, wherein said flavoring agent comprises acids.

20. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said flavor comprises water insoluble ingredients.

21. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises sweeteners.

22. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 21, wherein said sweetener comprises bulk sweeteners

23. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 22, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in the amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum.

24. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according claim 21, wherein said sweetener comprises high intensity sweeteners.

25. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 24, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprise sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination

26. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 24, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of less than 1% by weight of the chewing gum.

27. Canceled

28. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 27, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid

or mixtures thereof.

29. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~27~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in the amount of less than 18% by weight of the chewing gum.

30. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises active ingredients.

31. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 30, wherein said active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of: Acetaminophen, Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecoxib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon. Chloride, Benzeth. Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetirizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetonid,

Melatonin, Phenobarbitol, Caffeine, Benzodiazepiner, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhidramine, Dimenhydrinate, Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesiumoxide, Nizatide and/or Ratinidine or derivatives and mixtures thereof.

32. Canceled.

33. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer obtained by the polymerization of one or more cyclic esters by ring-opening and where at least one of the cyclic esters are selected from the group consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and mixtures thereof.

34. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 33, wherein lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of .epsilon.-caprolactone, .delta.-valerolactone, .gamma.-butyrolactone and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactone monomers are optionally substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

35. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 33, wherein the carbonate monomer is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 33, wherein cyclic ester polymers and their copolymers resulting from the polymerization of cyclic ester monomers are selected from the group consisting of poly(L-lactide); poly(D-lactide); poly(D, L-lactide); poly(mesolactide) poly(glycolide); poly(trimethylenecarbonate); poly(epsilon-caprolactone); poly(L lactide-co-D, L-lactide); poly(L-lactide-co-meso-lactide); poly(L-lactide co-glycolide); poly(L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate); poly(L-lactide co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly(D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide); poly(D, L lactide-co-glycolide); poly(D, L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) poly(D, L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly(meso-lactide-co glycolide); poly(meso-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate); poly(meso lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly(glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate); poly(glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); and mixtures thereof.

37. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 13, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

38. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 37, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of less than 50% by weight of the chewing gum.

39. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.

40. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, where the chewing gum is coated with an outer coating.

41. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating is a hard coating.

42. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 41, wherein the hard coating is a coating selected from the group consisting of a sugar coating,

sugarless coating, and a combination thereof.

43. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 41, wherein the hard coating comprises 50 to 100% by weight of a polyol selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, maltitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, lactitol and isomalt.

44. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating is an edible film comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of an edible film-forming agent and a wax.

45. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 41, wherein the film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, a modified starch, a dextrin, gelatine, shellac, gum arabic, zein, a vegetable gum, a synthetic polymer and any combination thereof.

46. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating comprises at least one additive component selected from the group consisting of a binding agent, a moisture absorbing component, a film forming agent, a dispersing agent, an antisticking component, a bulking agent, a flavouring agent, a colouring agent, a pharmaceutically or cosmetically active component, a lipid component, a wax component, a sugar, an acid and an agent capable of accelerating the after-chewing degradation of the degradable polymer.

47. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating is a soft coating.

48. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 47, wherein the soft coating comprises a sugar free coating agent.

49. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of

about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum, at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

50. (Original) Method of increasing the robustness of chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polymer by increasing the molecular weight of the at least one biodegradable polymer.

51. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50, wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be at least 105000 g/mol (Mn).

52. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50 wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be at least 150000 g/mol (Mn).

53. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50, whereby the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be at least 250000 g/mol (Mn).

54. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 500000 g/mol (Mn).

55. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted to within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 350000 g/mol (Mn).

56. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to

claim 50, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 250000 g/mol (Mn).

57. (Previously presented) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be less than 2000000 g/mol (Mn).

58. (canceled)